

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COPENH 04591 171518Z
ACTION INR-10

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P R 171421Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6842
INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

UNCLAS COPENHAGEN 4591

FOR INR

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: SHUM CSCE UR DA
SUBJ: DANISH GOVERNMENT REACTION TO SOVIET TRIALS

REF: A. STATE 178559; B. COPENHAGEN 4537 (NOTAL); COPENHAGEN 4495
(NOTAL)

1. OFFICIAL DANISH REACTION TO TRIALS AND SENTENCING OF SOVIET
DISSIDENTS ORIGINALLY TRANSMITTED IN REFTELS B AND C. THE DANISH
PRESS CONTINUES TO REPORT REACTIONS BY OTHER LEADING OFFICIALS.

2. IN A FULL-PAGE INTERVIEW JULY 15 WITH THE LEFT-WING COPENHAGEN
INFORMATION, FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER K.B. ANDERSEN DISCUSSES I.A.
THE RECENT TRIALS AND SENTENCING OF SOVIET DISSIDENTS. ANDERSEN
SAYS THAT HE FULLY SUPPORTS THE EXPRESSION OF THE GOVERNMENT AND
OF THE FOLKETING FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE (REFS B & C) AND
ADDS: "WHEN I WAS IN MOSCOW IN JUNE I STRESSED TO (GROMYKO) THE
IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO THE HELSINKI ACCORDS AND THE POSSIBILITY
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PAGE 02 COPENH 04591 171518Z

OFFERED THE INDIVIDUAL CITIZEN TO MONITOR THE PROMISES GIVEN IN
HELSINKI. I, THEREFORE, FIND WHAT NOW HAS HAPPENED DEEPLY
REGRETTABLE." HOWEVER, ANDERSEN ALSO SAYS THAT THE SOVIET REACTION
DID NOT SURPRISE HIM. "THE MORE WE WORK FOR OPEN BORDERS AND THE
FREE MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE, THE MORE WE RISK ENGENDERING A FEELING
OF INSECURITY IN THOSE COUNTRIES THAT ARE GOVERNED BY A SYSTEM
DIFFERENT FROM OURS. THIS INSECURITY CAN LEAD TO OVER-REACTION,

AND THERE IS NO NEED TO FEEL SURPRISED THAT SUCH IS THE FIRST
ROUND REACTION TO DETENTE."

3. ANDERSEN ALSO READ INTO THE SOVIET TRIALS A REACTION TO THE
SALT NEGOTIATIONS: "THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT IS SAYING TO BE SURE,
WE ARE CONDUCTING SALT TALKS, BUT THAT DOES NOT MEAN WE HAVE LOST
OUR IDENTITY OR OUR INDEPENDENCE." HE DRAWS A CAUTIOUS PARALLEL
BETWEEN THE POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE IN MOSCOW AND IN WASHINGTON:
"THERE ARE CIRCLES IN BOTH CAPITALS THAT NEED ASSURANCE THAT THE
DETENTE TALKS DO NOT SPELL CAPITULATION. THUS, WE MAY SEE A
SIMILARITY BETWEEN THE COLD WAR TONES IN THE WEST AND THE TRIALS
IN THE EAST."

4. OTHER OFFICIAL DANISH COMMENTS TO THE TRIALS INCLUDE A LETTER
FROM THE COPENHAGEN LORD MAYOR, WEIDEKAMP TO HIS MOSCOW COUNTER-
PART PROMYSLOV. IN REFERRING TO THE DANISH GOVERNMENT STATEMENT
OF JULY 11 (REF C), WEIDEKAMP SAID, "IN MY CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN
OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY IN COPENHAGEN I APPEAL TO YOU - -
IN THE HOPE THAT THE RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES IN THE SOVIET UNION
MAY UNDERSTAND THE CONCERN EXPRESSED IN THE DANISH GOVERNMENT
STATEMENT."

5. FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY NOW MEMBER OF THE
FOLKETING FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, NINN-HANSEN, ISSUED A
STATEMENT SAYING "THE TRIALS MUST CAUSE HORROR AND ABHORRENCE.
THE SENTENCES ARE A WARNING TO THE WORLD, AND WE MUST EXPECT THE
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PAGE 03 COPENH 04591 171518Z

DANISH GOVERNMENT TO CONVEY OUR PROTEST TO THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES.
DEAN

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